

If Disraeli escaped the influenza, his general health, as the result of over-work and monetary worries, was by no means robust. Before February was far advanced the death of one of the members for Bucks sent him back post haste to Bradenham, and he performed prodigies of exertion for the Conservative candidate in the bye-election that followed ; but on the first day of the polling an incident occurred that greatly alarmed his friends. After canvassing far and wide, he had travelled all through the night to Aylesbury, and, as he stood in front of the George Inn talking to his friends, he fell in a fit, which the doctors, according to his father, explained as a slight attack of epilepsy, but which was, perhaps, sufficiently accounted for by the recording journalist<sup>1</sup> as the result of great fatigue and excitement, acting on a frame already enfeebled. According to the practice of the times, the patient was bled and put to bed, but the following day he was sufficiently recovered to be taken back to Bradenham. This incident seems to have led to an explanation with his father on the state of his affairs, and so afforded a great economist an opportunity for lecturing the future Chancellor of the Exchequer on the first principles of finance.

*From Count D'Orsay.*

Je suis bien aise pour votre inte'ret present et futur que vous vous soyez d&jide' a avouer a votre pere, l'e'tendu.e de votre scrape. Car les plasterings-over se de'molissenfc tou-jours et vous en auriez e'te' vie time contimiellement. Votre imagination, vive et brillante, vous fait b\$.tir des chateaux en Espagne. Tout cela est bel et bon pour les Wonderful Tales of Alroy, mais pour la mate'rielle vie de PAngleterre le positif b\$,t l'imaginaire.

In spite of D'Orsay's wise exhortations, Disraeli seems to have given only a half confidence to his father, and the two months that followed were perhaps the most distracting of his life.

<sup>1</sup> *In The Times* of February 17, 1837.